

CONCEPTS OF CULTURE



Overview

- * Define culture, subculture, and enculturation
- * Discuss attributes and non-attributes of culture
- * Discuss the concept of race and ethnic group
- * Discuss the implications of cross-cultural interactions
- * Discuss the pitfalls in cross-cultural interactions



Culture

The learned and shared behaviors and perceptions of a group which have been transmitted from generation to generation through a shared symbol system.

Subculture

Is a group of people within a larger social structure who share cultural and linguistic characteristics which are different enough to distinguish it from others within the same society.

Enculturation

- * The Passing of Culture
 - Is socially acceptable behaviors and attitudes
 - From the older to the younger members of a group

Attributes of Culture

- * Language and Symbols
 - Methods by which individuals transmit their values, beliefs, and perceptions
- * Values
 - Behaviors, people, things, and ideas that are considered central to a given culture

Attributes of Culture

- * Beliefs: Judgments or expectations that a person might have about certain things, or when a large group of people hold the same beliefs then a culture is born
- * Patterns of Thinking: The ways we reach conclusions, make deductions, and solve problems
- * Customary Behaviors: Patterns of behaving which represent the norms for a culture

Non-Attributes of Culture

- * Race: Attributes of culture are learned, there are more similarities than differences
- * Genetics: Culture is not inborn or inherited through genes
- * Ethnicity: Is defined as those characteristics that distinguish a group by race, religion, national origin, language or a combination of these. Can influence how a person learns the culture

Implications of Cross-Culture Interactions

- * Language Differences
- * Being Blunt
- * Testing
- * Customs, Observances, and Necessities
 - Religious Holidays
 - Haircuts
 - Dietary Restrictions
- * Supervisor/Subordinate Relationship
- * Military Justice
- * Social and Support Grouping

Pitfalls of Cross-Cultural Interactions

- * Stereotyping
- * Assumptions
- * Differences

Summary

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